[0063]   ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0064]   A multiport switching device includes a configuration table that stores associations between addresses of subnets directly connected to the switching device and the port number of the multiport switching device that leads to the subnet. A host processor connected to the multiport switching device updates and maintains the configuration table. A remote processor communicates with the switching device through the host processor. To facilitate the communication of the remote processor with the multiport switch, the host processor executes a TCP/IP stack and the multiport switch is assigned a unique IP address.

20